

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2020

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Edwards:

Last week, Congress provided record support directly to the states to help combat COVID-19. This includes the Coronavirus Relief Fund, Community Development Block Grants, Emergency Food and Shelter Funding, First Responder Grants, Economic Development Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding, Centers for Disease Control assistance to state public health agencies and many other programs.

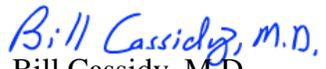
The State of Louisiana is slated to receive \$1,800,000,000 (\$1.8 billion) directly from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), or an amount nearly equal to 20 percent of the state's annual general fund expenditures. The federal law provides broad flexibility on the use of these funds to cover costs incurred as a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 and not anticipated in the state's most recent budget. The law requires that 45 percent of the funds be set aside for larger local governments entities. In the case of Louisiana, the entire allocation will be provided directly to the state government; however, we strongly urge you to carefully evaluate the needs of local governments and their role in this public health emergency.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act requires that the funds be provided to the State of Louisiana by the end of the month. I urge you to prioritize this funding for our local governments to ensure they have the resources they need to deploy preventative and responsive strategies as soon as possible.

I appreciate the work that you and our state officials have undertaken to meet the unprecedented challenge that we currently face. Our local leaders also play a key role in meeting the needs of our citizens. Advancing funding to our local governments as soon as possible will

ensure that this unprecedented amount of funding will pay for the greatest amount of immediate good for our state.

Sincerely,


Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator


Steve Scalise
Member of Congress


Garret Graves
Member of Congress


Clay Higgins
Member of Congress


John Kennedy
U.S. Senator


Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress


Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress


Mike Johnson
Member of Congress